

Rafferty, Zinn debate intellectual goals

Profs criticize education

By BILL SANTAMOUR and RICH GRANT
Collegian Staff Writers

Two prominent educators expressed their dissatisfaction with the current state of American education in Rec Hall Sunday night.

Calling for a re-emphasis on an educational policy which stresses the importance of the individual, Max Rafferty, former superintendent of schools in California, described the university "as a beehive."

Howard Zinn, professor of political science at Boston University, indicted the educational institutions for "passing on the cultural heritage" without using their "enormous intellectual energy" to solve problems.

Rafferty claimed that educators are hurrying a trend toward group adjustment, away from individualism.

A generation ago, Rafferty said, the philosophy of group adaptation became popular in the public school system. He blamed the philosophy for teaching that "all values are relative, all truths are variable."

Identity Loss

The result was loss of identity and erosion of self respect, he added. Students feel "creeping facelessness."

Rafferty decried an educational system that "degraded competition for excellence."

Attacking the university from another angle, Zinn said educational institutions "reflect the inadequacy of society." He cited the black revolution and the war in Indochina as events for which formal education had not prepared people. "When the war in Vietnam burst upon us, the people who became quick experts were pediatricians, linguists, chaplains," he said.

The university's social function, Zinn said, is to "preserve power, privilege, the myths of the culture and itself."

Emphasize Individual

Rafferty commented that Americans never could have made America "the envy of the world" if they had been conditioned to group adjustment. He advised minority group members to get America to treat them as individuals.

"When you react as a member of the group, you ask to be treated according to the

lowest common denominator," he said.

According to Rafferty, black Americans and Mexican Americans must think of themselves not primarily as members of ethnic groups, but as individuals judged on their own merits.

Zinn explained that the university serves the state by "feeding the brains of the university directly to the government" and by "feeding people into the niches of society." The complexity of society prevents people from seeing where they fit in the total structure, he said.

Power Diverted

Within the university, Zinn pointed out, the potential power of knowledge is diverted by having "people work on trivia." But the separation of people into disciplines, they cannot solve the big problems.

Zinn criticized the university's policy of separating knowledge from action. "An emphasis on technological competition to the exclusion of moral values and aims."

Regarding action to reverse the trend toward group adjustment, Rafferty said members of the audience could act in three areas.

As a parent, Rafferty said he would "insist on an educational philosophy which emphasizes the importance of the individual." As a breadwinner, he would improve himself by enrolling in adult education courses.

As a voter, he would join the political party which treated him as an individual.

Multiplying Billions

Rafferty concluded that today's most pressing problem is "the survival of the individual in a world of constantly multiplying billions." He told the audience, "It will be up to you whether mankind hears the shouting of free men or the murmuring of bees."

Calling for the creation of a world without violence and war, Zinn warned that the university must stop "being preoccupied with money, bureaucracy, tyranny and obedience."

He suggested that having students spend part of their time in society would create a single reality. He said utopia must be "more than a positive statement."

Zinn called for criticism of society and an active effort to change the educational system.

7 fraternities to house vets, rescue University from pinch

By BILL ZELLERS
Collegian Staff Writer

At last night's Interfraternity Council meeting, seven fraternities volunteered to feed and house 30 disabled veterans who will be visiting the University Thursday and Friday.

The veterans are coming up from the Valley Forge Memorial Army Hospital on Army buses and will be accompanied by Army personnel, such as physical therapists for those who need them. The fraternities also will be supplying cars to transport the veterans and people to accompany them.

The houses are Phi Kappa Theta, Phi Lambda Phi, Tau Delta Phi, Delta Chi, Tau Phi Delta, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Phi Kappa Alpha.

The visit by the disabled veterans is being co-sponsored by Pennsylvanians to Advance Veteran Education and the Renaissance Festival, according to Ed Baker, president of Penn State Veterans Organization.

Express Interest

The veterans were referred through their education officer as ones interested in college, Baker said. "The visit will give them contact with college life," he explained, and they will be taken to classes in subjects in which they are interested. "Any faculty member who wants to talk with the men and help them should contact us," Baker said.

The last minute request for housing came because of a mixup in the Office of Student Affairs, Baker said. An official invitation from the University was needed for the men to come up, he said, and the office was supposed to have sent out a letter five weeks ago. The veterans were under the impression that the letter had

been sent and were waiting for the reply when they found out a week ago that no letter had been sent, Baker explained.

M. Lee Upcraft, acting dean of student affairs, gave the veterans' organization the use of a University car to go to the hospital with a representative of the office and confirm the arrangements.

Baker said he then went to see Charles S. Spence, director of residence hall programs, to request 15 rooms for the veterans, but Spence said the University now has 250 guests in the residence halls for Colloquy and the Black Arts Festival and no room was available.

Need Donations

The local American Legion donated \$500 for the affair, Baker said, but it would cost \$250 just to feed 30 men for two days. The businessmen in town have been very generous in donating things, he said. "However we need funds and could use any donations," he added.

A block party is planned for the men on Friday night from 7 to midnight on Nittany Avenue between Pugh Street and Locust Lane. Several bands have volunteered to play for the event.

In other action at the meeting, the IFC members unanimously passed a proposal to transfer \$2,000 from the IFC savings account to the University Bail Bond Fund.

This money may be withdrawn upon 40 days notice and the interest earned on it will go to IFC. The interest in the fund is slightly lower than that of a savings account, Mike Evanisko, former IFC president, explained, so it will cost the IFC only about \$30 a year.

The fund is a service for all students, Evanisko said, and

will cover small charges such as shoplifting or drug busts.

Support HOPS

The IFC also passed a resolution recognizing and supporting the Homophiles of Penn State as "a legitimate chartered student organization entitled to all of the rights and privileges of other student organizations."

The resolution also petitioned the University to change its decision denying HOPS the use of University facilities unless a legal basis is found which prevents them from using the facilities.

The purpose of the resolution, according to Evanisko, who submitted it, is to support the right of the Undergraduate Student Government Supreme Court to grant charters to student organizations. "The resolution is not supporting or rejecting the aims of the organization," Evanisko explained.

"HOPS is a legitimate interest group with nothing illegal in its charter," Evanisko said, but added that the Administration assumes the group is guilty until it proves itself innocent.

The power to charter is one of the few powers student government has, he added, but the Administration "overturns a charter if it does not like it."

Evanisko noted that the same thing happened with Tau Epsilon Phi, a coeducational fraternity which was chartered by the USG Supreme Court but was not recognized by the University.

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